

✓ On page 1, line 26, delete "From".

✓ On page 1, line 26, change "Patent 196 26 576 A1," to --Published Patent Application No. 196 26 576 describes--.

✓ On page 1, line 26, delete "is known".

✓ On page 2, line 3, change "Advantages of the Invention" to --Summary Of The Invention--.

✓ On page 2, line 5, delete "having the characterizing".

✓ On page 2, line 6, delete "features of Claim 1 or of Claim 3".

✓ On page 2, delete lines 11-12.

✓ On page 2, line 31, delete ", having the features of Claim 9".

✓ On page 2, line 32, delete "or of Claim 10,".

✓ On page 3, delete lines 1-2.

✓ On page 3, delete lines 18-33, and in their place insert:

--Brief Description Of The Drawings

A1 Figure 1 depicts an axial cutaway view of a first exemplary embodiment of a fuel injector according to the present invention.

Figure 2 depicts the cutaway portion II in Figure 1, before the production of the crimping connection.

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Figure 3 depicts the cutaway portion II in Figure 1, after the production of the crimping connection.

Figure 4 depicts a partial axial cutaway view of the second exemplary embodiment of the fuel injector according to the present invention before the production of the crimping connection.

Figure 5 depicts the exemplary embodiment presented in Figure 4, after the production of the crimping connection.

Figure 6 depicts a partial axial cutaway view of the third exemplary embodiment of a fuel injector according to the present invention, before the production of the crimping connection.

Figure 7 depicts the exemplary embodiment presented in Figure 6, after the production of the crimping connection.

Figure 8 depicts a cutaway view along the line VIII-VIII in Figure 7.

Detailed Description--.

On page 4, delete lines 1-16.

On page 4, line 29, after "the" insert --present--.

On page 10, line 1, change "Patent Claims" to

--What Is Claimed Is--.

In The Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-13, without prejudice, and add new claims 14-33 as follows:

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14. (New) A fuel injector, comprising:
a valve needle;
a fixed valve seat surface;
a valve-closure member that is actuated by the valve needle;
a valve-closure member cooperating with the fixed valve seat surface to form a sealing seat;
a connecting piece; and
a valve housing that at least partially encloses the connecting piece, the valve housing being joined to the connecting piece by a crimped connection, wherein:
the connecting piece includes at least one notch, and
the valve housing, under an axial stress, is crimped into the at least one notch.

15. (New) The fuel injector according to claim 14, wherein:
the fuel injector corresponds to an injector for a fuel injection system of an internal combustion engine.

16. (New) The fuel injector according to claim 14, wherein:
the at least one notch is configured as a circumferential groove on an external periphery of the connecting piece.

17. (New) A fuel injector, comprising:
a valve needle;
a fixed valve seat surface;
a valve-closure member that is actuated by the valve needle;
a valve-closure member cooperating with the fixed valve seat surface to form a sealing seat;
a connecting piece;
a valve housing that at least partially encloses the connecting piece, the valve housing being joined to the connecting piece by a crimping connection; and

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A2

a spring element provided between the valve housing and the connecting piece and for acting upon the crimping connection through an axial stressing force.

18. (New) The fuel injector according to claim 17, wherein:
the fuel injector corresponds to an injector for a fuel injection system of an internal combustion engine.
19. (New) The fuel injector according to claim 17, further comprising:
a crimped valve housing segment; and
a support ring provided between the spring element and the crimped valve housing segment.
20. (New) The fuel injector according to claim 17, wherein:
the spring element includes a spring ring.
21. (New) The fuel injector according to claim 14, wherein:
the crimped connection includes a plurality of crimping segments arranged with respect to a valve axis so as to be offset from each other circumferentially, and
the valve housing is joined with respect to the crimping segments to the connecting piece in each case by a partial crimped connection, leaving out uncrimped segments.
22. (New) The fuel injector according to claim 17, wherein:
the crimping connection includes a plurality of crimping segments arranged with respect to a valve axis so as to be offset from each other circumferentially, and
the valve housing is joined with respect to the crimping segments to the connecting piece in each case by a partial crimped connection, leaving out uncrimped segments.

09762665-041801

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23. (New) The fuel injector according to claim 14, further comprising:
a lift-adjustment disk arranged between the valve housing and the connecting
piece.

24. (New) The fuel injector according to claim 17, further comprising:
a lift-adjustment disk arranged between the valve housing and the connecting
piece.

25. (New) The fuel injector according to claim 14, further comprising:
a sealing ring arranged between the valve housing and the connecting
piece.

26. (New) The fuel injector according to claim 17, further comprising:
a sealing ring arranged between the valve housing and the connecting
piece.

27. (New) A method for manufacturing a fuel injector that includes a
valve-closure member actuated by a valve needle and cooperating with a fixed valve
seat surface to form a sealing seat, that includes a connecting piece and a valve
housing that at least partially encloses the connecting piece, and in which the
connecting piece includes at least one notch into which the valve housing is crimped,
the method comprising the steps of:

inserting the connecting piece into the valve housing up to a predetermined
limit stop; and

crimping a material bulge into the at least one notch, wherein:

the material bulge is arranged at an average distance with respect to the
at least one notch in order to generate an axial tension between the valve
housing and the connecting piece.

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28. (New) The method according to claim 27, wherein:
the fuel injector corresponds to an injector for a fuel injection system of an internal combustion engine.
29. (New) A method for manufacturing a fuel injector that includes a valve-closure member actuated by a valve needle and cooperating with a fixed valve seat surface to form a sealing seat, and that includes a connecting piece and a valve housing that at least partially encloses the connecting piece, the method comprising the steps of:
inserting the connecting piece into the valve housing up to a predetermined limit stop;
introducing a spring element into an interstitial space formed between the connecting piece and the valve housing; and
applying a crimping force to the spring element by crimping over the valve housing in a direction of the connecting piece in order to generate an axial tension between the valve housing and the connecting piece.
30. (New) The method according to claim 29, wherein:
the fuel injector corresponds to an injector for a fuel injection system of an internal combustion engine.
31. (New) The method according to claim 29 wherein, once the spring element is introduced, the method further comprises the step of:
inserting a support ring into the interstitial space formed, after a joining, between the connecting piece and the valve housing.
32. (New) The method according to claim 29, further comprising the step of:
prestressing the spring element before a crimping by an action of a tubular prestressing tool guided about the connecting piece.

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